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V. *A Bill of Mortality for the Town of Salem, for the Year 1782.* By EDWARD AUGUSTUS HOLYOKE, M.D. F. A. A. and M. S. In a Letter to Mr. CALEB GANNETT, Rec. Sec. A. A.

S I R,

I Herewith fend you a bill of mortality, for the town of *Salem*, for the last year, which, although not so accurate as I could wish, may yet perhaps be worth communicating to the Academy; heartily wishing the public might be favoured with more correct bills of a like kind, from a variety of towns, of similar, and of different situations, for a course of years successively, as they would certainly afford the best means of judging of the state of population, a matter of real use and of great curiosity.

Salem is a sea-port town, situated in the 42d degree of N. Lat. on *Massachusetts-Bay*, about five leagues to the westward of *Cape-Ann*, and about as far north-eastward from *Boston*; where a considerable trade is carried on both with *Europe* and the *West-Indies*. That part of it which is settled thickest, is mostly a peninsula lying between two salt water rivers. The ground is flat and low, being scarcely more than twenty, or twenty-four feet above the level of the sea, at high water, any where, and in most places not near so much; and excepting a hill in the north-west, and another to the westward, neither of them very high, there are no eminences to interrupt the free course of the winds. The soil is in general light, dry and sandy, and quite free from any marshes or collections of stagnant waters. The water of the wells, which are very numerous, is pretty good, that of many so pure as to bear soap well; though, I think, our tea-kettles are generally covered on the inside with a stony crust.

The

The inhabitants are not subject to any endemic disorders ; though, thirty or forty years ago, hysteric and nervous complaints, are reputed to have been more than commonly rife here ; at present, I believe we are as exempt from such maladies as the neighbouring towns.

In the following bill the number of the *dead*, I believe, is pretty accurate ; the *ages* of the deceased in general, and the *month* they died in, are tolerably ascertained ; but as to the list of *diseases*, I cannot be answerable for a considerable part of it, as the best account I could procure of the disease is sometimes taken from the sextons, the reports of nurses or persons about the sick ; and how uncertain *that* must be, I need not say, when even physicians themselves are often at a loss how to class the diseases of their patients, with the precision they would wish ; and in several instances I have not been able to procure any account of the disease at all : I thought it better, however, to give a bill of that sort, imperfect as it is, than to suppress it entirely. As to the *births*, I believe the account is as compleat as can be expected, considering from whom we are obliged to collect the greatest part of it ; and, I suppose, approaches much nearer to the number of persons actually born, than accounts of christenings ever can, in any country where there is a general religious toleration ; indeed, in a town where there are various religious sects, some of which never administer baptism at all, and others who never administer it but to adults, which is our case, births can never be tolerably guessed at from an account of christenings. These however are not neglected, the gentlemen of the clergy having been so obliging as to furnish me with a compleat list of their several baptisms ; from the same hands too, and from the Justices of the Peace, who by our laws are quali-

fied to marry, I am favoured with the number of couples married. The number of rateable polls, &c. I have from the assessor's list. I would further observe, that the year 1782, taking it throughout, was more sickly than ordinary, and I have great reason to think that we have not had so great a mortality, since the year 1773, which is the more remarkable, as no epidemic disorder has been uncommonly prevalent.

I should have been glad to have procured a more particular bill, as well as a more accurate one, but found it impracticable.

I am. &c.

E. A. HOLYOKE.

Mr. CALEB GANNETT.

A Bill of Mortality for Salem, for the Year M,DCC,LXXXII.

GENERAL BILL.		December	13
Deaths	175		175
Births	317	BILL OF AGES.	
Baptisms	152	Still-born	6
Marriages	70	Within the month	6
Rateable polls, <i>i.e.</i> males,	897	Between 1 mon. and 1 year	30
from 16 years old and		1 year and 2	20
upwards, resident in		2 and 5	2
the town,		5 and 10	7
Transient persons—males,	200	10 and 15	3
MONTHLY BILL.		15 and 20	6
January, died	21	20 and 25	5
February	11	25 and 30	7
March	9	30 and 40	24
April	12	40 and 50	10
May	8	50 and 60	7
June	11	60 and 70	2
July	11	70 and 80	7
August	12	80 and 90	6
September	35	Ages unknown, of children chiefly,	27
October	22		
November	10		175
BILL			

BILL OF DISEASES.				
		Putrid		1
		Nervous		2
		Rheumatic		1
Angina	3	Hydrocephalus Internus		4
Aphthæ	2	Hypochondriacism		1
Apoplexy	2	Lethargy		2
Ascites	3	Lientery		1
Asthma	1	Old Age		7
Atrophy	5	Over-Eating		1
Cachexy	7	Paralytic		6
Chin-Cough, combined	}	Pathifis Pulmonalis		13
with Dyfentery and		Ricketts		2
Cholera Dyfenterica		Ulcers finuous		1
Cholera Morbus	1	Vomiting		1
Cholera Dyfenterica	20	Worms		1
Coeliaca	1	Suddenly		5
Complicated Cafe	1	New-born		6
Consumption	4	Still-born		6
Convulsion	7	Casualties 7, viz.		
Diarrhœa	3	Burnt		3
Dyfentery	6	Drowned		1
Empyema	1	Frozen		1
Erysipelas	1	Over-laid		1
Fevers	8	Scalded		1
Catarrhal	4	Diseases unknown of		13
Hospital	3			
Pleuritic	2			
Peripneumonic	3			
				175

A Bill of Mortality for Salem, for the Year M,DCC,LXXXIII.

GENERAL BILL.		MONTHLY BILL.	
Deaths	189	January	5
Births, about	385	February	9
Baptisms { Boys 80 }	158	March	9
{ Girls 78 }		April	11
Marriages, about	84	May { Measles were {	33
Rateable polls, i. e. males, {	1000	June { epidemic {	24
from 16 years old and		July	14
upwards		August	17
Number of inhabitants {	9000	September	25
estimated at about		October	12
		November	

November	14	Empyema	1
December	16	Fevers	1
	189	From dentition	1
		Pleuritic	1
		Peripneumonic	5
		Rheumatic	2
		Scarlet	2
		Synochus	5
		From worms	1
		Hard-Drinking	1
		Hæmoptosis	1
		Head mould-shot	1
		Hydrocephalus Internus	1
		Inflamed Intestines	1
		Imperforate Anus	1
		Lientery	1
		Lock'd-Jaw	1
		Measles	16
		After Measles, of Angina	2
		Fever	3
		Consumption	2
		Dysentery	2
		Peripneumony	7
		Sphacelus	1
		Synochus	1
		Old Age	5
		Oppression	1
		Paralytic	1
		Phthisis Pulmonalis	13
		Scrophulous Ulcers	2
		Suppressio Urinæ	1
		Spasm at Stomach	1
		Vomica	1
		Vomiting	2
		Worms	3
		New-born, <i>i. e.</i> within the } 11	
		month	
		Still-born	14
		Suddenly	2
		Shot dead	1
		Diseases unknown of	10
			189
BILL OF AGES.			
Still-born	14		
Within the month	11		
Between 1 mon. and 1 year	27		
1 year and 2	29		
2 and 5	28		
5 and 10	12		
10 and 15	3		
15 and 20	2		
20 and 25	8		
25 and 30	8		
30 and 40	9		
40 and 50	8		
50 and 60	7		
60 and 70	6		
70 and 80	6		
80 and 90	2		
Ages unknown of	9		
	189		
BILL OF DISEASES.			
Anasarca after Scarlet Fever	4		
Angina	1		
Apoplexy	3		
Afcites	1		
Asthma	2		
Atrophy	4		
Cachexy	2		
Cancer	1		
Child-birth	1		
Cholera Dyfenterica	8		
Coeliaca	3		
Complication	3		
Consumption	5		
Convulsions	8		
Cynanche-maligna	5		
Dysentery	6		
Epilepsy	4		

